

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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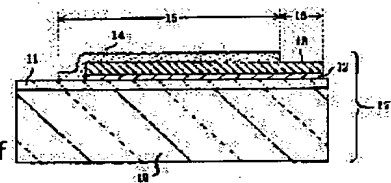
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(54) ELECTRODE SUBSTRATE FOR REFLECTION TYPE DISPLAY DEVICE AND ITS PRODUCTION

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain excellent durability and heat resistance and high light reflectance even when silver is used as a material of a conductive film by forming an inorg. insulating film on a conductive film pattern corresponding to the display face of an electrode substrate for a reflection type display device.

SOLUTION: The electrode substrate 17 for a reflection type display device essentially consists of a glass substrate 10 and a SiO₂ thin film 11, adhesion layer 12 silver-based thin film 13 and inorg. insulating film 14 successively deposited on the glass substrate 10. The inorg. insulating film 14 is formed on the display part of a conductive film pattern corresponding to the display face 15, while the inorg. insulating film is not formed on the terminal part 16 of the conductive film pattern which needs electric contact. The inorg. insulating film 14 is formed by sputtering with using a sputtering target comprising a mixture oxide of cerium oxide containing niobium oxide. The adhesion layer 12 essentially consists of indium oxide with addition of cesium oxide, tin oxide and titanium oxide.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The electrode substrate for reflective mold displays characterized by not carrying out the laminating of the inorganic insulator layer on the terminal area of the electric conduction film pattern which carries out the laminating of the inorganic insulator layer on the display of the electric conduction film pattern equivalent to the screen in the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays which made the electric conduction film pattern of the two-layer configuration of a glue line and a silver system thin film arrange on a substrate, and takes electrical installation.

[Claim 2] The electrode substrate for reflective mold displays according to claim 1 characterized by a glue line being a glue line chosen from either [at least] a metal thin film or a metallic-oxide thin film.

[Claim 3] The electrode substrate for reflective mold displays according to claim 1 or 2 characterized by a glue line being the mixed oxide which uses indium oxide or a zinc oxide as a base material.

[Claim 4] The electrode substrate for reflective mold displays according to claim 1, 2, or 3 characterized by a silver system thin film consisting of a silver alloy which added the metal chosen as silver from platinum, palladium, gold, copper, and nickel one or more sorts.

[Claim 5] The electrode substrate for reflective mold displays according to claim 1, 2, 3, or 4 with which thickness of a silver system thin film is characterized by being in the range of 50nm - 300nm.

[Claim 6] The manufacture approach of the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays characterized by not to carry out the laminating of the inorganic insulator layer on the terminal of the electric-conduction film pattern which carries out the laminating of the inorganic insulator layer by the sputtering membrane formation using the mask which has predetermined opening, and takes electrical installation on the display of the electric-conduction film pattern equivalent to the screen in the manufacture approach of the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays of having made the electric-conduction film pattern of the two-layer configuration of a glue line and a silver system thin film arrange on a substrate.

[Claim 7] The manufacture approach of the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays according to claim 6 which the target used for sputtering membrane formation of an inorganic insulator layer is a conductive target, and is characterized by the thin film formed on the electric conduction film of sputtering serving as electric insulation substantially.

[Claim 8] The manufacture approach of the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays according to claim 6 or 7 characterized by the target used for sputtering membrane formation of an inorganic insulator layer being a target containing cerium oxide.

[Claim 9] The manufacture approach of the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays according to claim 6, 7, or 8 characterized by only for a terminal area leaving a photoresist pattern and using this as a mask at the time of sputtering membrane formation of an inorganic insulator layer after making an electric conduction film pattern form by etching.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention is easy electrical installation especially about the electrode substrate for displays used for a liquid crystal display, an I/O device, PDP (plasma display), or EL (electroluminescence), and it is involved in the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays excellent in thermal resistance, and its manufacture approach.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] The transparency mold liquid crystal display of a liquid crystal display which contains the light source (lamp) as a back light is common. However, these transparency mold liquid crystal display had large power consumption with the lamp for back lights, and since the time was short when it is a cell drive, it had the problem that harnessing the description as portable [which a liquid crystal display should have essentially] could be being finished. For this reason, development of the liquid crystal display of the reflective (that is, lamp for back lights is not built in) mold using outdoor daylight is active in recent years.

[0003] As a reflective mold liquid crystal display 2, as shown in the mimetic diagram of drawing 3, many things made into the structure which carried out the laminating of the reflective film 31 and the color filter 32 one by one at the liquid crystal [of the tooth-back substrates 30, such as glass,] 39 and field side which counters are proposed. In addition, according to the predetermined pattern, two or more formation of the pixel (it is only hereafter described as a pixel) of the light transmission nature by which the color filter 32 was colored R (red), G (green), B (blue), etc. is carried out. Moreover, the reflective film 31 may be used as a reflector which served as the electrode for a liquid crystal drive.

[0004] Conventionally, many aluminum thin films are used as reflective film 31 formed in the tooth-back substrate 30 shown in drawing 3. Aluminum can be called metal with the high reflection factor of the light of a visible region. Improvement in the display grace of a liquid crystal display is demanded, and the rate of a light reflex of an aluminum thin film is stopping however, being able to say it as what should not necessarily be satisfied in recent years. Moreover, aluminum also had the problem that the rate of a light reflex fell further, when liquid crystal and a glass substrate were touched.

[0005] For this reason, using silver as a material of the reflective film is proposed. It can be said that silver is excellent in the reflection factor of light as compared with aluminum (for example, silver is excellent in the reflection factor of light about 10% as compared with aluminum). However, the adhesion force of silver over substrates, such as glass and plastics, is low, and when it forms on a substrate as a silver thin film, it has the problem of being easy to separate from a substrate. Moreover, when a silver thin film is formed on a substrate with silver with high purity, and it heat-treats by being easy to condense the silver thin film with high purity under the effect of heat or oxygen, a silver thin film becomes cloudy and it also has the problem that the rate of a light reflex tends to fall.

[0006] The technique which uses as the reflective film the electric conduction film of 3 lamination which pinched the silver thin film with the conductive oxide as a technique with which the fault which is produced when the reflective film is used as silver, and which was mentioned above is compensated is proposed. However, also with this technique, in case the electric conduction film (reflective film) is

processed into a predetermined pattern with an etching reagent, the electric conduction film (reflective film) receives the damage by etching, and has the problem that the conductive oxide of the bottom which pinches a silver thin film especially becomes easy to separate.

[0007]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] This invention was made in view of the above troubles, and in the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays which arranged the electric conduction film pattern on the substrate, even if silver is used for it as a material of the electric conduction film (reflective film), it is to offer the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays with which it excels in endurance and thermal resistance, and the high rate of a light reflex is obtained.

[0008]

[Means for Solving the Problem] this invention persons inquire wholeheartedly that the above-mentioned technical problem should be solved. Consequently, if the efficient inorganic high insulating layer of adhesion is formed on the electric conduction film pattern of the two-layer configuration which consists of the glue line and silver system thin film which are the Takamitsu reflection factor and have high moisture resistance, it will find out that the above-mentioned technical problem can be solved, and this will be proposed. Moreover, in order to harness the lowness of low resistance of a silver system thin film, and connection resistance and to give the resistance in an elevated temperature (for example, before or after 300 degree C), it proposes forming an inorganic insulator layer on the electric conduction film pattern equivalent to the screen of the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays.

[0009] That is, invention concerning claim 1 is taken as the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays characterized by not to carry out the laminating of the inorganic insulator layer in the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays which made the electric conduction film pattern of the two-layer configuration of a glue line and a silver system thin film arrange on a substrate on the terminal area of the electric-conduction film pattern which carries out the laminating of the inorganic insulator layer on the display of the electric conduction film pattern equivalent to the screen, and takes electrical installation.

[0010] The ingredient of the above-mentioned inorganic insulator layer should just have a certain amount of acid resistance, alkali resistance, and thermal resistance transparently. For this reason, although it can say that a nitride and an organic material are sufficient as an ingredient of an inorganic insulator layer, it can be said from membranous hardness and a membranous heat-resistant viewpoint that an oxide is desirable. As an oxide, they are SiO_2 , Ta_2O_5 , ZrO_2 , Nb_2O_5 , CeO_2 , MgO , and aluminum Al_2O_3 , for example. These mixed oxides are raised. moreover, these -- some -- SnO_2 of an amount, ZnO , In_2O_3 , and Sb_2O_5 etc. -- it adds and is good also as an inorganic insulator layer. Furthermore, an inorganic insulator layer can give high resistance by performing heat treatment after forming the inorganic insulator layer formed from these ingredients.

[0011] The silver system thin film which is a silver alloy is lacking in the adhesion over substrates, such as glass, and it has the fault which is easy to separate. What is necessary is just to form in a substrate beforehand in advance of formation of a silver system thin film by making into a glue line the metal thin film which has the adhesion force to substrates, such as glass, or a metallic-oxide thin film, in order to raise the adhesion of a silver system thin film.

[0012] That is, a glue line uses invention concerning claim 2 as the electrode for reflective mold displays characterized by being the glue line chosen from either [at least] a metal thin film or a metallic-oxide thin film.

[0013] A glue line may be formed with the metal thin film which consists of an alloy of metals, such as aluminum, an aluminum containing alloy, nickel and a nickel chromium alloy, a Magnesium alloy, titanium, and a tantalum, or these metals. Or a glue line may be formed with the thin film of the mixed oxide which mixed metallic oxides, such as indium oxide, tin oxide, an aluminum oxide, a zinc oxide, titanium oxide, and cerium oxide, or these oxides.

[0014] In this invention, in case pattern processing is carried out, the metallic oxide of the substrate

which is a glue line also needs to be able to carry out etching processing with a silver alloy thin film in the configuration of a request of the electric conduction film (reflector) of the two-layer configuration which consists of a glue line and a silver system thin film by etching. For this reason, this invention persons examine the conductive oxide which is easy to carry out etching processing by etchant, such as an acid. Consequently, it found out that the mixed oxide which uses indium oxide and a zinc oxide as a base material was desirable as conductive oxide.

[0015] That is, invention concerning claim 3 is taken as the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays characterized by a glue line being the mixed oxide which uses indium oxide or a zinc oxide as a base material.

[0016] Subsequently, it can be said that addition of the metallic element of the amount of some to silver is desirable when raising the thermal resistance of the electric conduction film (reflector). Moreover, in the two-layer configuration which consists of a glue line and a silver system thin film, it can be said that it is desirable to add the high metal of work functions, such as platinum, palladium, gold, copper, and nickel, to silver in order to raise the dependability of the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays.

[0017] Therefore, invention concerning claim 4 is taken as the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays characterized by a silver system thin film consisting of a silver alloy which added the metal chosen as silver from platinum, palladium, gold, copper, and nickel one or more sorts.

[0018] From the hit where the thickness exceeded 50nm, the rate of a light reflex becomes high and a silver system thin film is thickness. The rate of a light reflex is mostly saturated near 200nm, and it is thickness. Even if it exceeds 300nm, the rate of a light reflex will not change. Therefore, thickness of a silver system thin film Although you may form more thickly than 300nm, even if it thickens thickness of a silver system thin film in respect of the rate of a light reflex, or the financial side (manufacturing cost), it can seldom be said as that meaningful.

[0019] Therefore, invention concerning claim 5 is taken as the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays with which thickness of a silver system thin film is characterized by being in the range of 50nm - 300nm.

[0020] Since the electric conduction film of the two-layer configuration which consists of a glue line and a silver system thin film processed as drive electrodes, such as passive matrices for STN mold liquid crystal etc. (the shape of a stripe), needs to form a terminal area and it is necessary to take electrical installation in a terminal area, in case an inorganic insulator layer is formed, it can be said that it is important to consider as the form which does not cover a terminal area by the inorganic insulator layer. It becomes possible by forming an inorganic insulator layer by the sputtering method not to form an inorganic insulator layer in a terminal area, after covering with the mask which has the predetermined opening pattern which consists a terminal area of a thin metal plate, a resin plate, etc.

[0021] Namely, invention concerning claim 6 is set to the manufacture approach of the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays of having made the electric conduction film pattern of the two-layer configuration of a glue line and a silver system thin film arrange on a substrate. The laminating of the inorganic insulator layer is carried out by sputtering membrane formation using the mask which has predetermined opening on the display of the electric conduction film pattern equivalent to the screen. And on the terminal of the electric conduction film pattern which takes electrical installation, it considers as the manufacture approach of the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays characterized by not carrying out the laminating of the inorganic insulator layer.

[0022] Here, when it has the big screen and the electric conduction film pattern used as the detailed pattern as an electrode substrate for reflective mold displays, it can be said that it is comparatively difficult to form an inorganic insulating thin film in order to obtain the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays of this invention. That is, although it can say that forming by the technique of RF (RF) sputtering is common as for an inorganic insulator layer, it is for covering the electric conduction film with a charge at the time of sputtering, and being guided by RF by this technique depending on a pattern configuration, and the ununiformity of electric field occurring on an electric conduction film pattern, and

being unable to perform homogeneous film attachment, but being easy to produce color nonuniformity and thickness nonuniformity. In order to solve this, this invention persons used and did DC sputtering of the conductive target, and found out that what is necessary was just to form an inorganic insulating thin film.

[0023] That is, invention concerning claim 7 is taken as the manufacture approach of the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays which the target used for sputtering membrane formation of an inorganic insulator layer is a conductive target, and is characterized by the thin film formed on the electric conduction film of sputtering serving as electric insulation substantially. In addition, RF (RF) may be lightly carried at the time of DC sputtering mentioned above.

[0024] There is the technique of forming membranes to a substrate as SiO₂ (or SiO) by DC thru/or RF-DC sputtering, carrying out little installation of the oxygen using the silicon which doped B (boron) and P (Lynn) and gave conductivity as the concrete technique of sputtering membrane formation of an inorganic insulator layer as a sputtering target. Or performing substrate heating if needed introducing oxygen the same with having used metal targets, such as metal magnesium, a metal cerium, and aluminum, as starting material, and having mentioned them above, sputtering is performed and there is also the technique of forming membranes as an insulating metallic oxide.

[0025] Furthermore, CeO₂-In₂O₃ which mixed the insulating powder (powder) of CeO₂ (cerium oxide), and the powder (powder) of conductive In₂O₃ (indium oxide), and was made to fabricate and sinter There is also the technique of forming membranes by sputtering using a target and forming the inorganic insulating film on a substrate. In addition, CeO₂ Powder and In₂O₃ It is CeO₂ by mixing and sintering [fabricate and] powder. In₂O₃ carries out phase separation, and can secure conductivity as a target.

[0026] By the technique these-mentioned above, a homogeneous inorganic insulator layer without color nonuniformity or thickness nonuniformity can be formed on a big screen and a detailed electric conduction film pattern.

[0027] That is, invention concerning claim 8 is taken as the manufacture approach of the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays characterized by the target used for sputtering membrane formation of an inorganic insulator layer being a target containing cerium oxide.

[0028] Subsequently, the substrate used for the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays of this invention does not need to be transparent, and may be a substrate colored white, black, or other colors according to the application of a reflective mold display. Furthermore, the substrate itself may be the substrate with which the electrical circuit was formed, or a substrate with which the solar battery was formed, and you may be the substrate with which semiconductor devices, such as an amorphous silicon, polish recon, or MIM (diode component), were formed. Furthermore, a polarizing element, a diffraction grating, a hologram, the light-scattering film, $\lambda/4$ wavelength plate, a phase contrast film, a micro lens, a color filter, etc. may be formed directly or indirectly on the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays of this invention.

[0029] Moreover, since the electric conduction film (reflective film) concerning this invention is low resistance, it can be used for the signal lines and bus lines of a component, such as TFT (thin film transistor) and MIM, and can be used for these and a pixel electrode at coincidence.

[0030]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Below, based on a drawing, it explains about the example of a gestalt of implementation of invention.

As shown in <example 1> drawing 1 , the electrode substrate 17 for reflective mold displays concerning this example 1 The glass substrate 10 (the Nippon Sheet Glass Co., Ltd. make, H quart article) with a thickness of 0.7mm, SiO₂ by which the laminating was carried out one by one on the glass substrate 10 The principal part consists of the thin film 11 (40nm of thickness), a glue line 12 (25nm of thickness) which uses indium oxide as a base material, a silver system thin film 13 (thickness 150nm), and an inorganic insulator layer 14 (65nm of thickness).

[0031] Here, the inorganic insulator layer 14 of this example 1 formed niobium oxide by sputtering

membrane formation using the sputtering target which consists of a cerium oxide mixed oxide contained 15% of the weight.

[0032] A glue line 12 adds cerium oxide, the tin oxide, and titanium oxide to the indium oxide which is a base material. The presentation is indium 88at% (atomic ratio) and a cerium at the atomic ratio (let an oxygen element be no count) of metallic element conversion. 8.5at% (atomic ratio), tin It could be titanium 0.5at% (atomic ratio) 3at% (atomic ratio).

[0033] Moreover, the silver system thin film 13 is gold to silver. 1at% (atomic ratio), copper It considered as the silver alloy which made 1at% (atomic ratio) contain.

[0034] The electrode substrate 17 for reflective mold displays concerning this example 1 is formed in the following manufacture processes.

[0035] First, vacuum suction of the washed glass substrate 10 was contained and carried out into the vacuum tub (sputtering system). Subsequently, it is SiO₂ with the sputtering method, without taking out a glass substrate 10 from a vacuum tub. Continuation membrane formation of a thin film 11, a glue line 12, and the silver system thin film 13 was carried out. In addition, heating intentional to a substrate was not performed at the time of sputtering.

[0036] After taking out the glass substrate 10 from the vacuum tub after the laminating membrane formation mentioned above and applying a photoresist on the silver system thin film 13, pattern exposure was performed to the glass substrate 10 through the pattern mask for exposure which has a predetermined pattern. Subsequently, negatives were developed to the glass substrate 10 and the photoresist pattern which exposed the electric conduction film (two-layer configuration of a glue line 12 and the silver system thin film 13) according to the predetermined pattern was obtained. That is, the photoresist pattern after development is exposing electric conduction film parts other than the part which is finally needed.

[0037] Subsequently, dissolution removal of the electric conduction film part exposed from the photoresist pattern was carried out using the sulfuric-acid system etchant containing the 1 % of the weight of the 2nd cerium ammonium of a nitric acid. Then, it re-exposed only at equivalent to the screen 15 which shows a photoresist pattern in drawing 1 , then the time, and only this part carried out exfoliation removal of the photoresist pattern. That is, the photoresist of the part equivalent to the terminal area 16 shown in drawing 1 has left.

[0038] Subsequently, the inorganic insulator layer was formed all over glass substrate 10 using the sputtering system. Then, re-exposure was performed all over glass substrate 10, and the photoresist pattern which is in terminal area 16 part using organic lye was removed after an appropriate time. By this processing, it will be in the condition that the silver system thin film 13 was exposed from the inorganic insulator layer 14 by terminal area 16 part.

[0039] Next, temperature Annealing processing which performs heating at 230 degrees C for 1 hour was performed, and the electrode substrate 17 for reflective mold displays shown in drawing 1 was obtained.

[0040] To the substrate 17 for reflective mold displays obtained in the manufacture process mentioned above Even if it hung heat treatment around 300 degrees C, decline in the rate of a light reflex was not seen, either without screen 15 part becoming cloudy. Moreover, although terminal area 16 part became cloudy, even if it performed electric mounting to the terminal area 16, it is low enough, and the reliability evaluation after an elevated temperature and a highly humid endurance test (a substrate is left under the condition of the temperature of 60 degrees C and 90% of humidity for 1000 hours) is also satisfactory, and connection resistance of a terminal area 16 was good.

[0041] In addition, in order to avoid the color nonuniformity and thickness nonuniformity of an inorganic insulator layer at the time of membrane formation of the inorganic insulator layer in this example 1, the device which floats electrically completely a sputtering system and a tray (metal frame into which a glass substrate 10 is put), and a glass substrate 10 (that is, it insulates) is performed.

[0042] As shown in <example 2> drawing 2 , the principal part consists of a glue line 22 (25nm of thickness) by which the laminating of the electrode substrate 27 for reflective mold displays concerning

this example 2 was carried out one by one on the alkali-free-glass substrate 20 (the Corning, Inc. make, 1737 material) and a glass substrate 20 with a thickness of 0.7mm, a silver system thin film 23 (thickness 150nm), and an inorganic insulator layer 24 (65nm of thickness).

[0043] Membranes are formed in DC sputtering using the mixed oxide target which the inorganic insulator layer 24 concerning this example 2 becomes from cerium oxide, titanium oxide, and indium oxide here, introducing the oxygen of an amount a little. In addition, the presentation of a mixed oxide target was made into indium 59at% (atomic ratio) titanium 1at% (atomic ratio) cerium 40at% (atomic ratio) in the atomic ratio (let an oxygen element be no count) of metallic element conversion.

[0044] Moreover, the glue line 22 and the silver system thin film 23 were considered as the same presentation as the above-mentioned example 1. Furthermore, the manufacture process of the electrode substrate 27 for reflective mold displays of this example 2 is temperature about the conditions of the annealing processing which is the last process. It was presupposed except having considered as heating at 300 degrees C for 1 hour that it is the same as that of the manufacture process of the above-mentioned example 1.

[0045] To the electrode substrate 27 for reflective mold displays concerning this example 2 Even if it applied heat treatment around 300 degrees C, by the part equivalent to the screen 25, appearance-change of nebula etc. was not observed and did not have decline in the rate of a light reflex further, either. Moreover, it is lower than electrical installation resistance of the transparent electrode which consists of ITO (mixed oxide of indium oxide and the tin oxide) with common electrical installation resistance of a terminal area 26 also about mounting of a terminal area 26, and the reliability evaluation after an elevated temperature and a highly humid endurance test (a substrate is left under the condition of the temperature of 60 degrees C and 90% of humidity for 1000 hours) is also satisfactory, it was good, and the dependability of a terminal area 26 was enough.

[0046] Furthermore, the color nonuniformity of the electric conduction film or coloring by formation of an inorganic insulator layer were not seen, either, but the good electrode substrate 27 for reflective mold displays was obtained.

[0047] In addition, the rate of a light reflex of the electrode substrate 27 for reflective mold displays concerning this example 2 is the wavelength of light. By the way as compared with 550nm about 95% and the case where aluminum is used as the reflective film, it was a good rate of a light reflex high about 10%.

[0048]

[Effect of the Invention] The electrode substrate for reflective mold displays which has the thermal resistance in an elevated temperature (for example, before or after 300 degree C) whose conventional substrate which consisted of electric conduction film considered as the two-layer configuration of a glue line and a silver system thin film was inadequate, and fully harnessed the silver Takamitsu reflection factor by this invention can be obtained.

[0049] It has a merit, like since it makes into the requirements for a configuration to form an inorganic insulator layer on the silver system thin film which is a reflector, can omit the formation process of the inorganic insulator layer called the overcoat by which the laminating was carried out on the display electrode for liquid crystal when STN mold liquid crystal etc. was used conventionally, and, furthermore, in addition, simplification of the manufacture process of the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays is attained at the electrode substrate of this invention for reflective mold displays.

[0050]

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] The explanatory view showing one example of the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays of this invention.

[Drawing 2] The explanatory view showing other examples of the electrode substrate for reflective mold displays of this invention.

[Drawing 3] The explanatory view showing the example of a reflective mold liquid crystal display typically.

[Description of Notations]

2 [] Liquid Crystal Display

10, 20, 30 Substrate

11 [] SiO₂ Thin Film

12 22 Glue line

13 23 Silver system thin film

14 24 Insulator layer

15 25 Screen

16 26 Terminal area

17 27 Electrode substrate

31 [] Reflective Film

32 [] Color Filter

33 [] Overcoat Layer

34 36 Transparent electrode

35 [] TFT (Thin Film Galvanized Iron JISUTA)

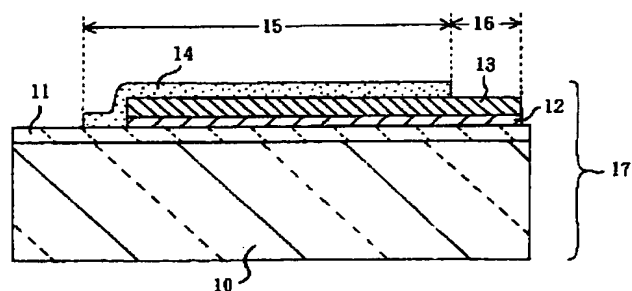
38 [] AG (Acid Resisting) Film

39 [] Liquid Crystal

[Translation done.]

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(43)公開日 平成11年(1999)4月30日



(2)

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】基板上に、接着層と銀系薄膜の2層構成の導電膜パターンを配設せしめた反射型表示装置用電極基板において、表示面に相当する導電膜パターンの表示部上に無機絶縁膜を積層し、かつ、電氣的接続をとる導電膜パターンの端子部上には無機絶縁膜を積層しないことを特徴とする反射型表示装置用電極基板。

【請求項2】接着層が、金属薄膜あるいは金属酸化物薄膜の少なくとも一方より選択される接着層であることを特徴とする請求項1に記載の反射型表示装置用電極基板。

【請求項3】接着層が、酸化インジウムあるいは酸化亜鉛を基材とする混合酸化物であることを特徴とする請求項1または2に記載の反射型表示装置用電極基板。

【請求項4】銀系薄膜が、銀に、白金、パラジウム、金、銅、ニッケルから1種以上選択される金属を添加した銀合金よりなることを特徴とする請求項1、2または3に記載の反射型表示装置用電極基板。

【請求項5】銀系薄膜の膜厚が、50nm～300nmの範囲にあることを特徴とする請求項1、2、3または4に記載の反射型表示装置用電極基板。

【請求項6】基板上に、接着層と銀系薄膜の2層構成の導電膜パターンを配設せしめた反射型表示装置用電極基板の製造方法において、表示面に相当する導電膜パターンの表示部上に、所定の開口部を有するマスクを用いたスパッタリング成膜により無機絶縁膜を積層し、かつ、電氣的接続をとる導電膜パターンの端子部上には無機絶縁膜を積層しないことを特徴とする反射型表示装置用電極基板の製造方法。

【請求項7】無機絶縁膜のスパッタリング成膜に用いるターゲットが導電性ターゲットであり、かつ、スパッタリングにより導電膜上に形成された薄膜が実質的に電気絶縁性となることを特徴とする請求項6に記載の反射型表示装置用電極基板の製造方法。

【請求項8】無機絶縁膜のスパッタリング成膜に用いるターゲットが、酸化セリウムを含有したターゲットであることを特徴とする請求項6または7に記載の反射型表示装置用電極基板の製造方法。

【請求項9】エッチングにより導電膜パターンを形成せしめたあと、端子部のみフォトリソパターンを残して、これを無機絶縁膜のスパッタリング成膜時のマスクとして用いることを特徴とする請求項6、7または8に記載の反射型表示装置用電極基板の製造方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、液晶表示装置、入出力装置、PDP（プラズマディスプレイ）、あるいはEL（エレクトロルミネッセンス）等に用いられる表示装置用電極基板に関し、特に、電氣的接続が容易であり、かつ、耐熱性に優れた反射型表示装置用電極基板と、そ

の製造方法に係わる。

【0002】

【従来の技術】液晶表示装置は、バックライトとして光源（ランプ）を内蔵する透過型液晶表示装置が一般的である。しかし、これら透過型液晶表示装置は、バックライト用ランプによる消費電力が大きく、電池駆動の場合は使用時間が短いため、本来液晶表示装置が有すべき携帯用としての特徴を活かしきれていないという問題があった。このため、近年、外光を利用する（すなわち、バックライト用ランプを内蔵しない）反射型の液晶表示装置の開発が活発となっている。

【0003】反射型液晶表示装置2として、例えば図3の模式図に示すように、ガラス等の背面基板30の液晶39と対向する面側に、反射膜31および、カラーフィルタ32を順次積層した構造としたものが多く提案されている。なお、カラーフィルタ32は、例えばR（赤）、G（緑）、B（青）等に着色された光透過性の画素（以下、単に画素と記す）が、所定のパターンに従って複数形成されているものである。また、反射膜31は、液晶駆動用の電極を兼ねた、反射電極として用いる場合もある。

【0004】従来、図3に示す、背面基板30に形成する反射膜31として、アルミニウム薄膜が多く使用されていたものである。アルミニウムは、可視域の光の反射率が高い金属といえる。しかし、近年、液晶表示装置の表示品位の向上が要求されているものであり、アルミニウム薄膜の光反射率は、必ずしも満足すべきものとはいえず、なってきた。また、アルミニウムは、液晶やガラス基板と接した場合、さらに光反射率が低下するという問題もあった。

【0005】このため、反射膜の素材として銀を用いることが提案されているものである。銀は、アルミニウムと比較すると、光の反射率が優れているといえる（例えば、銀はアルミニウムと比較して光の反射率が、およそ10%程度優れる）。しかし、銀は、ガラスやプラスチックといった基板に対する密着力が低く、銀薄膜として基板上に形成した場合、基板より剥がれ易いという問題があるものである。また、純度の高い銀にて、基板上に銀薄膜を形成した場合、純度の高い銀薄膜は、熱や酸素の影響で凝集し易いものであり、熱処理を行った際、銀薄膜が白濁し、光反射率が低下しやすいという問題も有している。

【0006】反射膜を銀とした場合に生じる上述した欠点を補う技術として、銀薄膜を導電性酸化物にて挟持した、3層構成の導電膜を反射膜とする技術が提案されている。しかし、この技術でも、エッチング液にて導電膜（反射膜）を所定のパターンに加工する際、導電膜（反射膜）はエッチングによるダメージを受け、特に、銀薄膜を挟持する上側の導電性酸化物が剥がれ易くなるという問題が有る。

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【0007】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】本発明は、以上のような問題点に鑑みなされたもので、基板上に導電膜パターンを配設した反射型表示装置用電極基板において、導電膜（反射膜）の素材として銀を用いても、耐久性、耐熱性に優れ、かつ、高い光反射率の得られる反射型表示装置用電極基板を提供することにある。

【0008】

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明者らは、上記の課題を解決すべく鋭意検討を行ったものである。その結果、高光反射率で、かつ、高耐湿性を有する、接着層および銀系薄膜からなる2層構成の導電膜パターン上に、効率良く密着性の高い無機絶縁膜を形成すれば上記の課題を解決しうることを見だし、これを提案するものである。また、銀系薄膜の低抵抗と接続抵抗の低さを活かし、かつ、高温（例えば、300℃前後）での耐性を持たせるために、反射型表示装置用電極基板の表示面に相当する導電膜パターン上に無機絶縁膜を形成することを提案するものである。

【0009】すなわち、請求項1に係わる発明は、基板上に、接着層と銀系薄膜の2層構成の導電膜パターンを配設せしめた反射型表示装置用電極基板において、表示面に相当する導電膜パターンの表示部上に無機絶縁膜を積層し、かつ、電氣的接続をとる導電膜パターンの端子部上には無機絶縁膜を積層しないことを特徴とする反射型表示装置用電極基板としたものである。

【0010】上記無機絶縁膜の材料は、透明で、かつ、ある程度の耐酸性、耐アルカリ性および耐熱性を持つものであれば良い。このため、無機絶縁膜の材料として、窒化物や有機材料でも良いといえるが、膜の硬さや耐熱性の観点から、酸化物が好ましいといえる。酸化物としては、例えば、 SiO_2 、 Ta_2O_5 、 ZrO_2 、 Nb_2O_5 、 CeO_2 、 MgO 、 Al_2O_3 や、これらの混合酸化物があげられる。また、これらに若干量の SnO_2 、 ZnO_2 、 In_2O_3 、 Sb_2O_5 等を添加して無機絶縁膜としても良い。さらに、これらの材料より形成された無機絶縁膜を形成後、熱処理を行うことで、無機絶縁膜により高い耐性を付与することができる。

【0011】銀の合金である銀系薄膜は、ガラス等の基板に対しての密着性に乏しく、剥がれ易い欠点がある。銀系薄膜の密着性を向上させるためには、銀系薄膜の形成に先立ち、ガラス等の基板に対して密着力のある金属薄膜、あるいは金属酸化物薄膜をあらかじめ接着層として基板に形成すれば良い。

【0012】すなわち、請求項2に係わる発明は、接着層が、金属薄膜あるいは金属酸化物薄膜の少なくとも一方より選択される接着層であることを特徴とする反射型表示装置用電極としたものである。

【0013】接着層は、アルミニウムやアルミ合金、ニッケルやニッケル・クロム合金、マグネシウム合金、チ

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タンやタンタル等の金属、あるいは、これら金属の合金からなる金属薄膜で形成しても良い。または、酸化インジウム、酸化スズ、酸化アルミニウム、酸化亜鉛、酸化チタン、酸化セリウム等の金属酸化物、あるいは、これら酸化物を混合した混合酸化物の薄膜で接着層を形成しても良い。

【0014】本発明において、エッチングにて接着層と銀系薄膜とからなる2層構成の導電膜（反射電極）を所望の形状にパターン加工する際、接着層である下地の金属酸化物も、銀合金薄膜とともにエッチング加工することが必要である。このため本発明者らは、酸などのエッチャントによりエッチング加工しやすい導電性酸化物を検討したものである。その結果、導電性酸化物として、酸化インジウムや酸化亜鉛を基材とする混合酸化物が好ましいことを見出した。

【0015】すなわち、請求項3に係わる発明は、接着層が、酸化インジウムあるいは酸化亜鉛を基材とする混合酸化物であることを特徴とする反射型表示装置用電極基板としたものである。

【0016】次いで、銀への若干量の金属元素の添加は、導電膜（反射電極）の耐熱性を向上させるうえで好ましいといえる。また、接着層と銀系薄膜とからなる2層構成において、銀に、白金、パラジウム、金、銅、ニッケル等の仕事関数の高い金属を添加することは、反射型表示装置用電極基板の信頼性を向上させるために好ましいといえる。

【0017】従って、請求項4に係わる発明は、銀系薄膜が、銀に、白金、パラジウム、金、銅、ニッケルから1種以上選択される金属を添加した銀合金よりなることを特徴とする反射型表示装置用電極基板としたものである。

【0018】銀系薄膜は、その膜厚が50nmを超えたあたりから光反射率が高くなり、膜厚200nm付近で光反射率はほぼ飽和し、膜厚300nmを超えても光反射率は変わらなくなる。そのため、銀系薄膜の膜厚を300nmより厚く形成しても良いが、光反射率や経済面（製造コスト）の点で、銀系薄膜の膜厚を厚くしても、あまり意味のあるものとはいえない。

【0019】従って、請求項5に係わる発明は、銀系薄膜の膜厚が、50nm～300nmの範囲にあることを特徴とする反射型表示装置用電極基板としたものである。

【0020】STN型液晶用などの単純マトリクス（ストライプ状）等の駆動電極として加工された、接着層と銀系薄膜とからなる2層構成の導電膜は端子部を形成し、端子部にて電氣的接続をとる必要があるため、無機絶縁膜を形成する際、無機絶縁膜で端子部を覆わない形とすることが肝要といえる。端子部に無機絶縁膜を形成しないことは、端子部を薄い金属板や樹脂板等よりなる所定の開口パターンを有するマスクでカバーした後、ス

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スパッタリング法にて無機絶縁膜を形成することで可能となる。

【0021】すなわち、請求項6に係わる発明は、基板上に、接着層と銀系薄膜の2層構成の導電膜パターンを配設せしめた反射型表示装置用電極基板の製造方法において、表示面に相当する導電膜パターンの表示部上に、所定の開口部を有するマスクを用いたスパッタリング成膜により無機絶縁膜を積層し、かつ、電気的接続をとる導電膜パターンの端子には無機絶縁膜を積層しないことを特徴とする反射型表示装置用電極基板の製造方法としたものである。

【0022】ここで、反射型表示装置用電極基板として、大画面、かつ、微細なパターンとした導電膜パターンを有していた場合、本発明の反射型表示装置用電極基板を得るべく、絶縁性の無機薄膜を形成することは比較的困難といえる。すなわち、無機絶縁膜は、RF（高周波）スパッタリングの手法で形成することが一般的といえるが、この手法では、スパッタリング時に導電膜に電荷が溜まったり、また、パターン形状によってはRFにより誘導されて導電膜パターン上で電場の不均一が発生し、均質な膜付けが出来ず、色ムラや膜厚ムラを生じやすいためである。これを解決するために、本発明者らは、導電性のターゲットを用いてDCスパッタリングし、絶縁性の無機薄膜を形成すれば良いことを見いだした。

【0023】すなわち、請求項7に係わる発明は、無機絶縁膜のスパッタリング成膜に用いるターゲットが導電性ターゲットであり、かつ、スパッタリングにより導電膜上に形成された薄膜が実質的に電気絶縁性となることを特徴とする反射型表示装置用電極基板の製造方法としたものである。なお、上述したDCスパッタリング時、軽くRF（高周波）をのせても良いものである。

【0024】無機絶縁膜のスパッタリング成膜の具体的手法として、B（ホウ素）やP（リン）をドーピングして導電性を付与したシリコンをスパッタリングターゲットとして用い、酸素を少量導入しながら、DCないし、RF-DCスパッタリングにより、SiO₂（ないし、SiO）として基板に成膜する手法がある。または、金属マグネシウム、金属セリウム、アルミニウム等の金属ターゲットを出発物質とし、上述したのと同様に酸素を導入しながら、また、必要に応じて基板加熱を行いつつ、スパッタリングを行い、絶縁性の金属酸化物として成膜する手法もある。

【0025】さらには、例えば、絶縁性のCeO₂（酸化セリウム）の粉末（パウダー）と、導電性のIn₂O₃（酸化インジウム）の粉末（パウダー）とを混合し成形、焼結させた、CeO₂-In₂O₃のターゲットを用いてスパッタリングにより成膜し、絶縁性の無機膜を基板上に成膜する手法も有る。なお、CeO₂の粉末と、In₂O₃の粉末とを混合し成形、焼結すること

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で、CeO₂とIn₂O₃とが相分離して、ターゲットとして導電性が確保できるものである。

【0026】これら上述した手法により、大画面かつ、微細な導電膜パターン上に、色ムラや膜厚ムラの無い、均質な無機絶縁膜を形成することが出来る。

【0027】すなわち、請求項8に係わる発明は、無機絶縁膜のスパッタリング成膜に用いるターゲットが、酸化セリウムを含有したターゲットであることを特徴とする反射型表示装置用電極基板の製造方法としたものである。

【0028】次いで、本発明の反射型表示装置用電極基板に用いる基板は透明である必要はなく、反射型表示装置の用途に応じて、白色、黒色またはその他の色に着色された基板であっても構わない。さらに、基板自体が、電気回路の形成された基板、または、太陽電池が形成された基板であっても良く、アモルファスシリコン、ポリシリコン、または、MIM（ダイオード素子）等の半導体素子が形成された基板であっても良い。さらには、偏光素子、回折格子、ホログラム、光散乱膜、λ/4波長板、位相差フィルム、マイクロレンズ、カラーフィルタ等を本発明の反射型表示装置用電極基板上に直接もしくは間接的に形成しても良い。

【0029】また、本発明に係わる導電膜（反射膜）は、低抵抗であるため、TFT（薄膜トランジスタ）やMIM等の素子の信号線やバスラインに使用でき、これらと画素電極とに同時に用いることが出来る。

【0030】

【発明の実施の形態】以下に、発明の実施の形態例につき、図面に基づいて説明する。

＜実施例1＞図1に示すように、本実施例1に係わる反射型表示装置用電極基板17は、厚さ0.7mmのガラス基板10（日本板硝子（株）製、Hコート品）と、ガラス基板10上に順次積層された、SiO₂薄膜11（膜厚40nm）と、酸化インジウムを基材とする接着層12（膜厚25nm）と、銀系薄膜13（膜厚150nm）と、無機絶縁膜14（膜厚65nm）とでその主要部が構成されている。

【0031】ここで、本実施例1の無機絶縁膜14は、酸化ニオブを15重量%含有した酸化セリウム混合酸化物よりなるスパッタリングターゲットを用い、スパッタリング成膜で形成した。

【0032】接着層12は、基材である酸化インジウムに、酸化セリウム、酸化スズおよび酸化チタンを添加したものである。その組成は、金属元素換算の原子パーセント（酸素元素はノーカウントとする）にて、インジウム88at%（原子パーセント）、セリウム8.5at%（原子パーセント）、スズ3at%（原子パーセント）、チタン0.5at%（原子パーセント）とした。

【0033】また、銀系薄膜13は、銀に、金1at%（原子パーセント）、銅1at%（原子パーセント）を含有させた銀合金とした。

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【0034】本実施例1に係わる反射型表示装置用電極基板17は、以下の製造プロセスにて形成したものである。

【0035】まず、洗浄したガラス基板10を、真空槽（スパッタリング装置）内に収納し、真空引きした。次いで、ガラス基板10を真空槽から取り出すことなく、スパッタリング法にて、 SiO_2 薄膜11と、接着層12と、銀系薄膜13とを連続成膜した。なお、スパッタリングの際、基板に意図的な加熱は行わなかった。

【0036】上述した積層成膜後、ガラス基板10を真空槽から取り出し、銀系薄膜13上にフォトレジストを塗布した後、所定のパターンを有する露光用パターンマスクを介し、ガラス基板10にパターン露光を行った。次いで、ガラス基板10に現像を行い、所定のパターンに従って導電膜（接着層12と銀系薄膜13との2層構成）を露出したフォトレジストパターンを得た。すなわち、現像後のフォトレジストパターンは、最終的に必要となる部位以外の導電膜部位を露出させている。

【0037】次いで、硝酸第2セリウムアンモニウム1重量%を含む硫酸系エッチャントを用い、フォトレジストパターンより露出した導電膜部位を溶解除去した。このあと、フォトレジストパターンを、図1中に示す表示面15に相当するところのみ再露光し、この部分のみフォトレジストパターンを剥離除去した。すなわち、図1中に示す端子部16に相当する部位のフォトレジストは残しているものである。

【0038】次いで、スパッタリング装置を用いて、無機絶縁膜をガラス基板10全面に成膜した。その後、ガラス基板10全面に再露光を行い、しかる後、有機アルカリ液を用い端子部16部位にあるフォトレジストパターンを除去した。この処理により、端子部16部位では、無機絶縁膜14より銀系薄膜13が露出した状態となる。

【0039】次に、温度 230℃にて1時間加熱を行うアニーリング処理を行い、図1に示す反射型表示装置用電極基板17を得た。

【0040】上述した製造プロセスで得られた反射型表示装置用基板17に 300℃前後の熱処理を掛けても、表示面15部位は、白濁することなく光反射率の低下も見られなかった。また、端子部16部位は白濁するものの、端子部16に電気的な実装を行っても、端子部16の接続抵抗は十分に低く、かつ、高温、高湿の耐久性テスト（温度60℃、湿度90%の条件下に基板を1000時間放置する）後の信頼性評価も問題なく良好であった。

【0041】なお、本実施例1における無機絶縁膜の成膜時、無機絶縁膜の色ムラや膜厚ムラを避けるため、スパッタリング装置および、トレー（ガラス基板10を入れる金属製の枠）と、ガラス基板10とを、電気的に完全に浮かす（すなわち、絶縁する）工夫を行ったものである。

【0042】＜実施例2＞図2に示すように、本実施例

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2に係わる反射型表示装置用電極基板27は、厚さ0.7mmの無アルカリガラス基板20（コーニング社製、1737材）と、ガラス基板20上に順次積層された、接着層22（膜厚25nm）と、銀系薄膜23（膜厚150nm）と、無機絶縁膜24（膜厚65nm）とでその主要部が構成されている。

【0043】ここで、本実施例2に係わる無機絶縁膜24は、酸化セリウム、酸化チタン、および酸化インジウムからなる混合酸化物ターゲットを用い、若干量の酸素を導入しながらDCスパッタリングにて成膜したものである。なお、混合酸化物ターゲットの組成は、金属元素換算の原子パーセント（酸素元素はノーカウントとする）にて、セリウム40at%（原子パーセント）、チタン1at%（原子パーセント）、インジウム59at%（原子パーセント）とした。

【0044】また、接着層22および銀系薄膜23は、上記実施例1と同じ組成とした。さらに、本実施例2の反射型表示装置用電極基板27の製造プロセスは、最終プロセスであるアニーリング処理の条件を温度 300℃にて1時間加熱とした以外は、上記実施例1の製造プロセスと同一とした。

【0045】本実施例2に係わる反射型表示装置用電極基板27に 300℃前後の熱処理をかけても、表示面25に相当する部位では、白濁等の外見的变化は観察されず、さらに光反射率の低下もなかった。また、端子部26の実装に関しても、端子部26の電気的接続抵抗は、一般的なITO（酸化インジウムと酸化スズとの混合酸化物）からなる透明電極の電気的接続抵抗より低く、また、高温、高湿の耐久性テスト（温度60℃、湿度90%の条件下に基板を1000時間放置する）後の信頼性評価も問題なく良好であり、端子部26の信頼性は十分なものであった。

【0046】さらに、無機絶縁膜の形成による導電膜の色ムラや着色も見られず、良好な反射型表示装置用電極基板27が得られた。

【0047】なお、本実施例2に係わる反射型表示装置用電極基板27の光反射率は、光の波長 550nmのところでは約95%と、アルミニウムを反射膜とした場合と比較して10%程度高い、良好な光反射率であった。

【0048】

【発明の効果】本発明により、接着層と銀系薄膜との2層構成とした導電膜で構成された従来の基板では不十分であった、高温（例えば、300℃前後）での耐熱性を有し、かつ、銀の高光反射率を十分に活かした反射型表示装置用電極基板を得ることができる。

【0049】さらに加えて、本発明の反射型表示装置用電極基板では、反射電極である銀系薄膜上に無機絶縁膜を形成することを構成要件とするため、従来STN型液晶等を用いる場合に液晶用表示電極の上に積層されていたオーバーコートと呼称される無機絶縁膜の形成プロセスを省略でき、反射型表示装置用電極基板の製造プロセスの簡略化が可能になる等のメリットを有するものである。

(6)

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る。

【0050】

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の反射型表示装置用電極基板の一実施例を示す説明図。

【図2】本発明の反射型表示装置用電極基板の他の実施例を示す説明図。

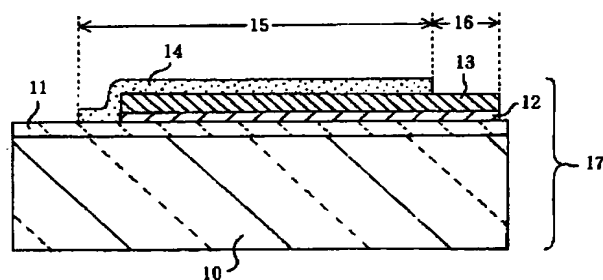
【図3】反射型液晶表示装置の例を模式的に示す説明図。

【符号の説明】

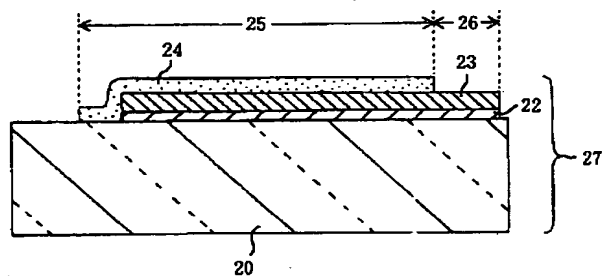
2 液晶表示装置
10、20、30 基板
11 SiO_2 薄膜
12、22 接着層

13、23 銀系薄膜
14、24 絶縁膜
15、25 表示面
16、26 端子部
17、27 電極基板
31 反射膜
32 カラーフィルタ
33 オーバーコート層
34、36 透明電極
35 TFT（薄膜トランジスタ）
38 AG（反射防止）フィルム
39 液晶

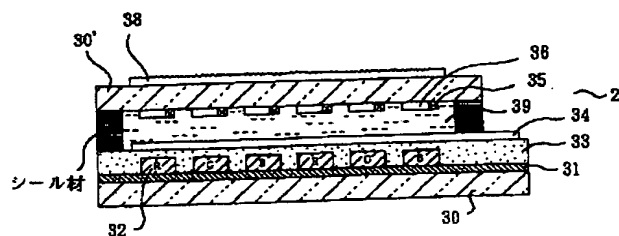
【図1】



【図2】



【図3】



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